

We're all in his debt.

Another person who has done much the same is Sarah Elizabeth Greensfelder of Baltimore. Sarah has taken part in all kinds of community service programs: at blood drives, the Special Olympics, Johns Hopkins Pediatric Center, in nursing homes, or with housebound senior citizens. When she was selected for this medal she had volunteered over 900 hours for helping others, the equivalent of working full-time for half a year. Let's give her a hand. [Applause] Where's your family? They should stand, too. Let's give them a hand. [Applause] That's good. Look at that. You've got a whole back row. Thank you.

Now I'd like to ask—I'm not going to leave you over there—Gennie Sue Sluder of Clatskankie, Oregon—did I say it right?

Ms. Sluder. No. [Laughter]

The President. How do I say it? Say it.

Ms. Sluder. Clatskankie.

The President. Clatskankie, Oregon—[applause]—stand up. Gennie started a program called Help Hungry Kids. She went to the school board and managed a statewide campaign

that asked students at all 235 high schools in Oregon to donate \$1 and two cans of food apiece for needy children. Now she's at George Fox College, and she's working at two jobs to put herself through school. But when she was in high school she thought of a way to organize a plan for every person her age in the State to help children who were less fortunate. A very impressive accomplishment.

I want to say again on behalf of all the people of the United States, it is a great honor to have these fine young people, their families, friends, and supporters in the White House today. They've made us all very proud, and they've reminded us again of what is most important about our citizenship, our roles in our families and in our communities, and in a very real sense, what it means just to be a person. They're great. Let's give them one more hand. And thank you all for being here.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:05 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks in the Flood Aid Telethon July 29, 1993

The President. I have made three trips now to the Midwest during this flood. My Secretary of Agriculture and the Director of FEMA have been there many, many more times. We've seen so many people who have lost their homes, their farms, their businesses, but they are carrying on very, very bravely.

Here in Washington, we're working hard to get a multibillion dollar emergency aid package through the Congress to help rebuild the communities, the businesses, the homes, to help to provide basic assistance. But the Federal Government can't do it all. Our country always has had a system in which the National Government would come to the need of States and communities and citizens when they needed help, but we've never been able to cover all the costs, and we won't be able to now. That's why we need your help.

The Red Cross has done a magnificent job; so has the Salvation Army; so have the churches

and the other community groups; so have thousands of people, young and old and all in-between, who have come to help. But we need your help. And I hope that you, too, will contribute whatever you can afford to help these wonderful Americans put their lives back together. They need your encouragement and your support. We'll do our part. We need you to help, too.

Q. [Inaudible]

The President. The aid should be there very soon. Of course, some of the emergency aid is there now. The Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Department of Agriculture have been giving cash and food stamps to people who are totally out of all resources and money. But the big aid will be there just as quickly as we can get it through the Congress. I think it will happen very soon. And we're all set up to move the checks out very quickly, I think within a couple of weeks after I can sign the

bill. And that should be just in the next day or so.

In terms of the long run, we've already got a group established to look at that. I met with the Governors of the affected States here in the White House just a couple of days ago, and we're going to work hard in the long run, too. I don't want this to happen again to you or to anybody else.

Q. [Inaudible]

The President. There is an 800 number that gets several thousand calls a day just from Iowa, down in Texas. If you don't have it, I will ar-

range to have it called in while the telethon is going on. We've tried to set up a one-stop telephone so that all Americans who are affected by the flood could call. We're going to do our best, as I said, to take care of this and also to take care of the long-term problems. I can't control the weather, but we're going to work hard to help you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:15 p.m. via satellite from the Library at the White House. A portion of these remarks could not be verified because the tape was incomplete.

Remarks in the Missouri-Kansas Flood Relief Telethon

July 29, 1993

The President. My fellow Americans, I want to thank you for watching this program tonight and for your concern for those who have been victimized by this awful flood. I've been to the Midwest three times myself. I've met with the Governors of the affected States here in the White House. Our people are there every day working hard to try to help put the lives of the folks back together who have been so hurt.

We have an emergency aid package moving through Congress which should be signed very shortly, and then the money will begin to flow to the Midwest. But under our system, the Federal Government can only do so much. We also need your help. The Red Cross has been magnificent. So has the Salvation Army. So have the churches and the other volunteer groups and people of all ages from all over America. But we now need to fill the gap left by Federal assistance, and left by the limits that people have in their own bankbooks, with private donations to help people put their lives back together. I hope you will help, too, so that together we can restore the people who have been so hurt and help them to rebuild their lives and our Nation.

Q. [Inaudible]

The President. I think the bill will pass the Congress in the next couple of days and come right to me for my signature. The people in our administration believe that we'll be able to have checks flowing out there within 2 weeks after that bill is signed. I have told them to

be ready and to work hard. We also have an 800 number which any citizen can call, which I'll provide to your station, to provide specific information about farm aid, small business aid, personal assistance, what can happen to the communities. We're working very hard to be ready, to be aggressive, to be fast.

Q. [Inaudible]

The President. I think we lost a day we should not have lost, but I think now you will see the thing move very, very quickly indeed. And they'll bring it to me. And as soon as it comes, I'll sign it, and we'll move the money out. I think no more than a day has been lost. There was an honest debate here about how we're going to pay for emergency assistance over the long run, but we couldn't afford to let that take away from the urgent need to help the people in the Midwest. And that's the program everybody's on now, without regard to party and without regard to which House of Congress. I think you'll get it in a hurry.

Q. [Inaudible]

The President. The Small Business Administration has an emergency program to provide very, very long-term, very, very low-interest loans to help people get back on their feet. In addition to that, for people who have been totally wiped out and have no assets left, there is some emergency financial aid available through the Federal Emergency Management Agency. So between the two of them, I think we can go forward. As I said, one of the things